

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method treating an individual afflicted with an inflammatory and/or autoimmune disease comprising administering to the individual an IL-1 delta polypeptide selected from the group consisting of the polypeptides of SEQ ID NO:2 and SEQ ID NO:4, and polypeptides encoded by DNAs that hybridize under moderately stringent conditions to the DNAs of SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:3 and block an inflammatory response selected from the group consisting of rheumatoid arthritis and inflammatory bowel disease.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein inflammatory and/or autoimmune disease is selected from the group consisting of rheumatoid arthritis, inflammatory bowel disease, psoriasis, and combinations thereof.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein inflammatory and/or autoimmune disease is selected from the group consisting of: ankylosing spondylitis, Crohn's Disease, ulcerative colitis, psoriatic arthritis, asthma, infection-associated airway hyperactivity, granulomatous lung disease, emphysema, chronic fibrosing alveolitis, acute hyperoxic lung damage, multiple sclerosis, chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyneuropathy, stroke, acute myocardial infarction, unstable angina, arterial restenosis, congestive heart failure, osteoporosis, osteoarthritis, glomerulonephritis, uveitis, Behcet's syndrome, sepsis, acute pancreatitis, diabetes, endometriosis, periodontal disease, heat stroke, glaucoma, multiple myeloma, myeloid leukemia, and combinations thereof.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the IL-1 delta polypeptides are selected from the group consisting of polypeptides comprising variant amino acid sequence that are at least 80% identical to the polypeptides of SEQ ID NO:2, or SEQ ID NO:4.
5. The method of claim 2, wherein the IL-1 delta polypeptides are selected from the group consisting of polypeptides comprising variant amino acid sequence that are at least 80% identical to the polypeptides of SEQ ID NO:2, or SEQ ID NO:4.
6. The method of claim 3, wherein the IL-1 delta polypeptides are selected from the group consisting of polypeptides comprising variant amino acid sequence that are at least 80% identical to the polypeptides of SEQ ID NO:2, or SEQ ID NO:4.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein the IL-1 delta polypeptides are selected from the group consisting of polypeptides comprising the amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NOs:2 or 4 wherein the polypeptides comprise alterations to the amino acid sequences selected from the group consisting of inactivated N-glycosylation site(s), inactivated protease processing site(s), conservative amino acid substitution(s), and combinations thereof.

8. The method of claim 2, wherein the IL-1 delta polypeptides are selected from the group consisting of polypeptides comprising the amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NOS:2 or 4 wherein the polypeptides comprise alterations to the amino acid sequences selected from the group consisting of inactivated N-glycosylation site(s), inactivated protease processing site(s), conservative amino acid substitution(s), and combinations thereof.

9. The method of claim 3, wherein the IL-1 delta polypeptides are selected from the group consisting of polypeptides comprising the amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NOS:2 or 4 wherein the polypeptides comprise alterations to the amino acid sequences selected from the group consisting of inactivated N-glycosylation site(s), inactivated protease processing site(s), conservative amino acid substitution(s), and combinations thereof.